VOLUME 28 NUMBER 9

DAKOTA HORTICULTURE

SEPTEMBER, 1955

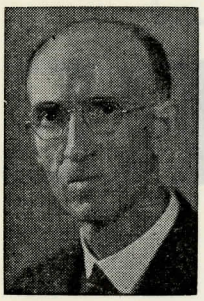
Commissioners Walter H. Burke, Chairman, Pierre; Newell E. Krause, Vice Chairman, Lemmon; and Cecil W. Duncan, member, Mitchell, stroll casually by beautiful Sylvan Lake after an examination of buildings and grounds in the area. —*Courtesy of the* SOUTH DAKOTA CONSERVATION DIGEST

PLAN TO ATTEND THE ANNUAL MEETING OF THE NORTH DAKOTA HORTICULTURAL SOCIETY AT DICKINSON, NORTH DAKOTA, SEPTEMBER 23 AND 24.

LAPLAND LONGSPUR NESTING

by

O. A. STEVENS



O. A. Stevens

These birds were the subject of one of the first articles in this series (March, 1931) where only a general statement was made that they nested mostly north of the Arctic Circle. A recent report on their behavior there seems worth an additional note.

The longspurs are notable with us because of their appearance in large flocks. I have usually noted them appearing about the middle of October, flying south in small groups or in flocks. During early winter they may be found in stubble fields where they feed upon weed seeds.

Usually they move farther south during the most severe weather, then in the spring through April and into May we may see large, noisy flocks passing northward. Their winter range covers the prairie area from the Dakotas to Texas and from the large numbers in which they appear it seems remarkable that so many could be raised in the Arctic regions.

Drs. G. M. Sutton and D. F. Parmlee spent the summer of 1953 on Southern Baffin Island (just south of the Arctice Circle) and have reported their notes on the longspurs in the Wilson Bulletin for June, 1955. These birds were very common in the area, and, rather surprisingly, they nearly always nested in wet grassland. Snow buntings (see note in January, 1955, issue) occupied the higher, rocky areas.

On arrival of the party at midnight on June 14 they were greeted by the song of a longspur from the top of a pole in the camp. The longspurs often sang from the top of this and another pole but the other birds, buntings, horned larks and pipits, never did. They studied 22 nests of the birds and found that the female did all the incubation. The male was not much in evidence during that period but appeared to do his share of feeding the young. The males soon stopped singing and when the young became independent the family groups seemed to be broken up.

Of the 22 nests, 17 were more or less successful and only one was destroyed by a predator. The number of eggs was usually 4 or 5 and hatching began about July 1. One peculiar feature was that the young left the nest when 9 or 10 days old and quite unable to fly. When they began to fly they often would start off rapidly only to tumble to the ground when their wings gave out.

The nests were lined with grass and usually with some feathers of ptarmigan or raven. In two cases the bottom of the nest was only an inch above the water level of a nearby pool. Of 97 eggs, 22 failed to hatch. This seems a large number but the authors do not comment upon it. The old birds were comparatively tame. The female often flew from the nest with little concern and returned readily to it. One male during the feeding period would approach the men within a few feet if they lay quietly in the grass.

I FIND

by

MARY LOUISE KINYON

Too short am I
Too fat, to
So I sigh.
Wouldn't you?

Do I stop eating?
Not a chance.
If I did,
Wouldn't fit my pants.

So I grow rounder
By the hour.
But this does not
My nature sour.

My face is always
Wreathed in smiles
Fat folks can—
Ignore the styles.

S. D. Federated Garden Club Officers

Mrs. E. M. Kindred, Pres.....Miller
Mrs. F. Mock, 1st V. P.....Newark
Mrs. C. D. Moyer, 2nd V. P.....Winner
Mrs. V. Tompkins, Cor. Sec.....Highmore
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Miss L. Sexauer, Treas.....Brookings
1326 4th

SEPTEMBER, 1955
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NEWSLANTS

by

HARRY A. GRAVES

Graves

This may not be horticultural but it is as red hot entertainment-wise as any red pepper. We are talking about the champagne music of Lawrence Welk and his Saturday night television show. It is seen here on WDAY-TV from 7:00 to 8:00 p.m.

We have long associated Maine and Rudy Vallee, the deep south and Louie Armstrong and Missouri and Red Foley. None of these fellows, however, is a better salesman of his native heath than Lawrence Welk, who proudly hails from Strasburg, North Dakota.

We doubt if a more versatile bunch have ever hit the television tubes. About the time you get to thinking you have seen and heard all of their musical tricks, another combination prances down front and center and proves that they can sing as well as tootle. All the way from bottom-of-the-well bass singer and pianist, Larry Hooper, to the hoarse enthusiasm of Rocky Rockwell when he lays aside his hot trumpet, there doesn't seem to be a member of the band who cannot do two or more things well.

The champagne really begins to bubble, however, when the Old Master, Welk, himself, buckles on his stomach Steinway and gives forth with a nostalgic oldster like, "If You Knew Susie."

Polka time is a time the band apparently looks forward to themselves. Here the boy from Emmons county invariably neglects his directing chores and cuts a tricky polka step with lovely soloist Alice Lon. Alice, by the way, can sing on my Hit Parade any time.

Lawrence Welk has set America's feet a' tapping with an appetizing mixture of tunes from today, yesterday and even the day before yesterday. The show has appeal for the kids and paw and maw alike. There aren't going to be many dishes washed between 7:00 and 8:00 p.m. on Saturday nights for awhile.

Me, I don't know much about the champagne that comes in bottles, but I am an alcoholic as far as the musical champagne served up by Lawrence Welk and friends is concerned. Strasburg and North Dakota can be mighty proud. Many thanks to Dodge!

Mid-July found our family on a series of visits to horticultural enterprises under the heading of business, but let me assure you it was a pleasure in spite of some ordinary roads and 95 degree heat. Extremely wet weather the past fall and again this spring almost put some gravel roads in eastern Saskatchewan out of business altogether. However, the new Trans-Canada Highway from Regina to Brandon made amends. I was reminded of the Irishman who commented on United States roads after an auto tour of this country. "There were some foine roads built by a couple of guys named Lincoln and Jefferson," said Pat, "but some horrible roads built by a Frenchman named DeTour!"

Our first full day took us to the abode of Dr. Frank Skinner. I had been there last in 1938. Everything had changed a lot, except Dr. Frank. It was hard for me to realize so many years had passed when I looked at the Laird of Dropmore.

A great many things of interest were viewed in the short time our schedule allowed. Insect leaf galls were very thick and unsightly on the American Basswood, but none were found on *Tilia cordata* or *Tilia mongolica* growing nearby. Eastern Red Cedar does not get apple rust as badly as does *scopulorum* or *horozontalis*. *Daphne tangutica* bears fragrant white flowers the end of May but must have snow cover at Dropmore. The tall slender crabapple, *Malus baccata pyramidalis* from the Arnold Arboretum should interest a lot of folks. We have to go along with the Doctor's opinion of the Stone Pine, *Pinus Cembra,* when he says it is his favorite evergreen. The Dropmore Scarlet Trumpet honeysuckle has been growing for 4 years on a trellis on one of the Skinner houses. Very hardy and extra worthwhile. Rose Alain, a dark red sort, has rich textured petals reminiscent of the floribunda, World's Fair. The Blue Artic Willow is not much good in Brother Skinners opinion. We are inclined to agree that it isn't quite worthwhile with us either. The mock orange, Purity, is quite hardy. It kills back some but has flowered annually for the past dozen years. The white flowered Potentilla, *Potentilla dahurica* should be planted more—blooms all summer. The combination of Dr. N. E. Hansen's silver leaved, Siberian white willow with the dark of its Laurel leaf cousin called for a colored 2 x 2 slide. The Amur mountain ash, *Sorbus Amurensis,* appears less susceptible to sunscald than the conventional kind. The Amur is 30 feet tall at Dropmore.

I would never hoe out any plants of the 3 delphiniums featured at Skinners. They are: Galahad, white; Summer Skies, bright Alice blue; and Black Knight, a very dark blue—or purple. Gas Plant (Dictamnus) is slow to produce from seed but once you get a plant established in your garden, you have a good thing for a good long time.

The Skinner farm covers about a section of land. There are 35 acres in good horticultural production. Another 30 acres or so are involved, "coming and going," as old plantations are broken up and new ones established. There is far too much to be adequately seen in the short time we paused. T'was very hot, too. Note was made of this fact by Mrs. Skinner who served us a cool refreshing drink as we concluded our tour. The Skinners have three fine children, two boys and a girl. Little Isabelle, two in October, is the cutest blonde we have seen in a long, long time.

The next day, quite by accident, we were led by a cousin to the strawberry enterprise of Frank Birt of Foam Lake, Saskatachewan. Thank God for relatives—some relatives, anyhow! Frank was born on Prince Edward Island and came to the Prairies in 1908 and to Foam Lake in 1916—"broke out the first furrow on this home place!" He keeps approximately an acre of berries in production. Another acre is in summerfallow, a third acre harbors new, young plants. Senator Dunlap is THE variety. He sets his plants 15 inches in the row, 4 feet between rows for tractor cultivation. "I take off only two crops from a planting," Frank Birt says, "I would rather start a new patch than renovate

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PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

by

MRS. E. M. KINDRED

Mrs. Kindred

Since this is my first visit with you since State Convention, I have many things that I want to tell you. First I want to again express my regret that the reports of the department chairmen were crowded out at convention, since the chairmen do so much of the work of our organization. I have asked our editor to print them as space permits so that all may read of their efforts. The summer has been a very busy one for your president and it has been a great pleasure to attend many of your meetings and flower shows. It is always such a disappointment when I have to send regrets to your kind invitations to meet with you.

At this time I wish to express the sympathy of our entire membership to Mrs. R. G. Ferris, slides chairman and to her children whose husband father passed away suddenly on August 20, and to the family of Mrs. Carl Kutz, president of the Countryside Garden Club, Highmore, whose tragic death in an automobile accident occurred some months ago.

Miss Laura Sexauer, state treasurer, has asked that I request all club treasurers to send all of their dues to her at one time if at all possible. Records are difficult and time consuming to keep when dues come one member at a time. At the pre-convention state board meeting it was voted to have membership cards printed to give to each member when her dues are paid. This will serve to identify each member with our State Federation and National Council, so please when you are sending your dues be sure to include correct names of members to accompany the check or money order. Please never send loose bills or change.

Mr. C. W. Heinson, Box 244, Sioux Falls has some neatly packaged seeds of the lovely Bells of Ireland which he will be glad to send to any one requesting them. A three-cent stamp please.

The three garden clubs of Hyde County are to be complimented for making it possible for the many in their area to hear and watch Carl Starker give one of his fine demonstrations in Flower Arranging on August 2 in Highmore. This is the third time Mr. Starker has appeared in South Dakota.

Earlier in the year in the bulletin from the South Dakota Children's Home, which many of you probably received, it was suggested that a row of potatoes, carrots or beets or some other vegetable be planted in your garden and shared with them. In the last issue to reach me it was again mentioned so if you have a surplus won't you share with those less fortunate and help to ease the strain on the budget of the Home?

The dates of the Rocky Mountain Regional Meeting have been set for October 3-4 in Scotts Bluff, Nebraska. Our director Mrs. J. B. Collins has extended an invitation to all members of the Federation to attend. I do not have any further details at the moment but contact your club president if you can attend as I will send her any additional data as soon as it reaches me.

Plans are being completed for another Flower Show School. This will be held at Viborg, South Dakota, with the second week in December set as the tentative date, at which time Course 1 will again be offered. Mrs. Dewey Benson, Hurley, has consented to act as local chairman. There have been some changes in the required reading list for Course 1 and 2. The most recent list is given below. This list goes into effect after January 1, 1956, but it is my suggestion that if you haven't already purchased the books listed for Course 1 that the new list be used since the final reading list will be over this new list and Course 2 as you notice calls for a review of some listed in Course 1.

National Council of State Garden Clubs, Inc., required reading list for flower show school courses—1955-1957—for use after January 1, 1956:

Note: All questions for the required reading examination will be taken from books listed below.

Required for All Courses

Handbook for Flower Shows (National Council of State Garden Clubs, Inc.)—$2.50.

National Gardener Magazine (National Council of State Garden Clubs, Inc.)—three years $2.00.

Woman's Home Companion Garden Book, John Wister—$4.95.

Course 1

Japanese Flower Arrangement, Allen—$2.75.

Complete Book of Flower Arrangement, Rockwell and Grayson—$4.95.

The Care and Feeding of Garden Plants; The American Society for Horticultural Science, the National Fertilizer Ass'n.—$3.00.

Woman's Home Companion Book, Wister—Chapters 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 21, 24, and 52.

Course 2

Corsage Craft, Noble and Reusch—$3.50.

Design in Flower Arrangement, John Taylor Arms—$3.50.

Wild Flowers for Your Garden, Helen Hull—$4.95.

(Accompanied by State Conservation Lists where available.)

Review "Care and Feeding of Garden Plants."

Woman's Home Companion Garden Book, Wister—Chapters 16-44.

Any one whether she is a member of a federated club or not may audit these courses but if taken for credit she must be a member of a club federated with National Council. In my opinion flower shows staged this summer showed a definite improvement where members had taken Course 1 that was held in April. While only thirteen took the course for credit nearly one hundred audited some part of the course and we hope that many will be interested in this next course to be offered.

Mrs. Dagfinn Lie, state chairman who so efficiently set up our spring school has found it necessary to resign because of health and family duties. Mrs. John Bushfield, Miller, has consented to act in her place for the balance of her term. Please contact either Mrs. Bushfield or Mrs. Benson for information that you may need.

I like this little treatise on Summer from the New York Times. I hope that you like it too.

"So much for calendars and calculations, which have more to do with stars and other planets than with what happens in our own back yards and upland meadows. Summer comes there

(*Continued on page* 103)

MANITOBA NEWS LETTER

by

W. R. LESLIE

Leslie

Weed Killers

The June issue of "Agricultural Research," a monthly journal of the United States Department of Agriculture, gives information on sprays for weeds as given here:

"Farmers' newest weed-killing technique—spraying them down—has practical off-farm possibilities, too. But chemicals must be sprayed with know-how to avoid damage to flowers or other wanted plants.

Home owners, nurserymen, park commission staffs, and others who want to try weed spraying are given this encouragement and warning by USDA agronomist R. J. Aldrich, coordinator of weed investigations in 12 states of the Northeastern region.

Chief advantage of weed spraying is that it saves tedious labor. It may save money as well where extensive weeding must be done.

For home owners, weed spraying is likely to be useful mainly for lawns. In small home gardens with mixed plantings, there's risk that a weed spray may drift and damage some susceptible treasured plant.

An important precaution for most situations, Aldrich emphasizes, is to keep the spray from drifting, especially when using 2,4-D and 2,4,5-T materials. A shielded boom (or sprayer wand) is standard gear for weed spraying close to flowers and shrubs. Holding the pressure down is advised—high pressure isn't needed to kill weeds and there's less drift with low-pressure sprays.

Watching the weather is important, too. Spray drifts worse on windy days. And a chemical that's otherwise safe may damage wanted plants on hot days —90° or higher.

Aldrich has these suggestions to offer for special situations:

In lawns: To fight broadleaved weeds such as dandelion and plantain, 2,4-D is effective if applied in spring or fall but normally works best in the fall. The same chemical can control wild onion and garlic when applied in early spring before these weeds grow above 4 to 6 inches. Crabgrass in home lawns is best fought by lawn grass itself—which means cutting no shorter than 2½ inches. If grass must be kept short, crabgrass can be killed with chemicals, two of the most popular being phenyl mercuric acetate and potassium cyanate.

Around ornamentals: In hothouses or park flower beds, much hand weeding can be saved by applying a chemical to the soil before weeds emerge. One good material is sodium 2,4-dichlorophenoxyethyl sulfate (SES). It doesn't kill up-and-growing weeds or damage well-started ornamentals, either, as a rule. The effect of SES on many ornamentals is untested, however, so trying this material first on a small area is advised.

There are varied chemicals to choose from for weeds that sprout under high-branching shrubs. Three that give good results are sodium isopropylvanthe (NIX), pentachlorophenol (PCP), and sodium arsenite. Their strength can be adjusted so they kill weeds without leaving a residue likely to damage the roots of wanted plants. Contact spraying works best here, with the chemical directed on weeds through a nozzle shielded with a metal funnel or other spray-restricting device.

Kill all vegetation: On parking lots, vacant lots, and walks, several chemicals applied to soil will make it sterile as long as the toxic concentration remains. Arsenicals, boron compounds, combinations of sodium borate and sodium chlorate, and 3-p-chlorophenyl-1, 1-dimethyl urea (CMU) are often used. Small amounts of CMU are very effective and it remains in the soil quite awhile. All these soil sterilants should be used with care, lest they wash or drain where they're not wanted. They can kill roots of even large trees.

Along highways, fences: Brush and broadleaved weeds can be controlled with blended 2,4-D and 2,4,5-T. Tall, woody brush may require cutting plus several spray treatments. Woody brush and thick stumps that may sprout again are best sprayed with these chemicals mixed in oil. The spray should coat the trunk surface up to at least 12 inches.

Poison ivy succumbs to combined 2,4-D and 2,4,5-T, though several treatments may be required. Ammonium sulphamate (AMMATE) is also a good poison-ivy killer. Less volatile than the other two materials, Ammate is less likely to cause drift damage to ornamentals. On the other hand, it will kill any plant that is well covered.

Chemical Treatment of Dandelions

Dandelions are possibly the most persistent weed infecting lawns, pastures and uncultivated areas. No matter how well kept the lawn, dandelions continue to invade and become established unless constant care is lavished by treating or rooting out single plants.

The introduction of chemical herbicides has proved a boon to home owners in the control and eradication of this troublesome weed. For some years 2,4-D Ester was the commonly accepted herbicide for spraying on lawns infested with dandelions. While this chemical proved effective in eradication some ornamental plantings and vegetables proved highly susceptible to this hormone, and often these plants were killed or growth severely stunted by the drift of the volatile Ester during or after spraying.

It is generally recognized now that M. C. P. Amine or 2,4-D Amine are highly effective in treating dandelions and with much less danger to susceptible plantings in close proximity to the lawn areas.

At the Dominion Experimental Station, Morden, 2,4-D Ester, 2,4-D Amine and M. C. P. Amine have been used effectively, and given satisfactory results when carefully applied, and at the proper time.

To those inexperienced in the use of these herbicides, it is recommended that Amines only be used for treating dandelions on lawns. Full directions for applying the solution are printed on the labels attached to the containers. The instructions should be followed closely. Application of the spray should be made when the grass and the dandelions are in vigorous growth, and when the weather is bright, calm and, preferably when the temperature is around 70 degrees F. At lower temperatures it may require a longer period for comparable results.

GARDEN CLUB GLEANINGS

by

MRS. VERN TOMPKINS

(Convention report, continued from last month.)

Mrs. Tompkins

The three minute reports of club presidents, at the breakfast on Tuesday, were, as always interesting and varied. These reports provide a very worthwhile exchange of ideas. Mrs. E. W. Ellmen gave a very interesting and beautiful demonstration on "Flower Arranging," and "Corsage Making." Perennials and annuals were discussed by Dr. Jesse Rawson, S. D. State College. "Insects and Pesticides" was the subject of a talk by E. F. Herrbach. A tour of the city and a visit to Mellette House finished the afternoon. Mellette House is a most interesting historic landmark. We were served refreshments by the Watertown clubs, in what was formerly the carriage house. The dinner at the Baptist church, and the "Stump the Expert" session was much enjoyed, as were the films shown by Mr. Atkinson. Some films were on landscape design, and the ones taken by his daughter, in England, were especially enjoyed by the writer. This finished another outstanding convention, with Mr. Elliott, State Forester, admonishing all who plan to go on the tour on Wednesday, to be at the city auditorium promptly at 8:30 a.m. or get left. We drove through Riverside Park, Bramble Park, and the zoo, past the airport entrance and residences on the west shore of Lake Kampeska, through Memorial Park. We enjoyed the stop at Soholt's Lake Kampeska Nursery. Lunch was served at Oakwood Lakes State Park. After lunch we went to Brookings and spent all the time left looking over plantings there, asking questions, etc., and, of course, lunch. We left for home in good time, feeling that we had, indeed, spent a pleasant and profitable three days in convention. Brookings will be host to the 1956 convention.

Mrs. Oscar Oines, Federation treasurer, handed in her resignation, as she feels that she cannot have time to devote to the job, since they are building a "long dreamed of" new home. The vacancy was filled by the election of Miss Laura Sexauer, of Brookings.

Mrs. Burrell Collins, Miller, says The Community Garden Club had a pot luck supper at the home of Mrs. J. J. Bertech, at which time Mr. Carl Heinson, of Sioux Falls, showed slides of wild flowers, and eastern S. D. scenery. Rollcall topic was "this was my mistake," and Mrs. Archie Joy had the program on conservation of forests and wildlife.

Mrs. Harry Piner was the speaker at the May meeting of the Pierre Garden Club, presenting a historical paper on wild flowers, weeds and shrubs of S. D. She used illustrations from a scrap book she has made through the years, by pressing flowers and weeds. Mrs. Dean Carmine made the quickie bouquet of wild flowers and presented it to Mrs. Piner. Mrs. E. N. Warne and Mr. and Mrs. Dean Carmine were hosts at the Warne home. The June meeting was held at the home of Mrs. R. K. Morrell, with R. J. Elliott of the State Game, Fish and Parks Department guest speaker. He told of the parks as they are today and of plans for the next few years when more recreational areas are created in the Missouri River program. The club entered the "money corsages" contest and voted $6.00 to be used in the corsages. Mrs. Morrell and Miss Mildred Ackerman were delegates to the state convention. Mrs. Morrell, Cecelia Samuelson, Mildred Ackerman and Mrs. J. W. Hughes were hostesses. Thanks to Mrs. Roy B. Baker for this fine report.

The Rural Garden Circle of Crooks met with Alice and Inga Tidemann. Plans were made for a family picnic at the Dell Rapids Park in July. Flora Steer gave an interesting report from the state convention. Roll call topic was "A Favorite Vacation Trip." The lesson on "Midsummer Care of Second Blooming Perennials" was given by June Ring. The club presented Mrs. Ring with a gift, as she is moving away. Thank you, Mrs. Ulvilden, for this report.

Items from the Start-A-Plant Garden Club, Britton, are—A Peony breakfast served from 9:30 to 10:30 June 10th. The breakfast was held in the VFW club room and was attended by about 100 guests. Mrs. R. G. Fortner was receptionist and Miss Connie Beck entertained with piano music during the breakfast. A silver offering was taken. After the breakfast the flowers, which were used on tables, in booths and windows, were taken to the hospital. For a club project, this group planted petunias on the hospital grounds. At the next meeting, held June 24th, the club voted to use the money from the breakfast to purchase a glider for the Good Samaritan Home at Groton. Mrs. Paul Reisenweber displayed corsages and arrangements. The corsages were presented to Mrs. Carl Pearson and Mrs. Conrad Severson. The topic, "Day Lilies" was presented by Mrs. Wesley Suurmeyer.

Mrs. C. W. Mitchell, Britton, sends the report from the Home Garden Club. Their Iris show was held June 1st at the Masonic Temple, in cooperation with the American Iris Society. The theme was "Garden Magic" and Mrs. Martin Johnson, of Cheyenne Gardens, Fargo, N. D., an accredited judge of the American Iris Society, judged the show. There were 23 exhibitors. Mrs. A. C. Bonham received awards for most first points in horticulture section, for the best specimen in the show for winning most points in the show, and for the best collection in cultural collection section. Mrs. A. M. Odland also received prizes for the best collection in cultural collection section, and second in number of points. Mrs. Harry Nelson had the best arrangement in the artistic section. Mrs. Frank Mock is the newly elected president of this club, with Mrs. H. Prchal, vice president, Mrs. Ray Jarrett, secretary, Mrs. A. M. Odland, treasurer. The club planted perennials at the city park, and the window box at the library. Mrs. Odland, Mrs. August Beck, and Mrs. Eric Kurschat are the committee in charge of the annual picnic.

Thanks for these good reports. I enjoyed meeting so many of you at Watertown, so I can feel that I am truly visiting with friends now when I get your letters.

Wanted: Boy to help drill wells. Must be able and willing to commence at the bottom.—WISCONSIN HORTICULTURE.

MY EXPERIENCE IN HORTICULTURE

by
R. L. WODARZ

Wodarz

Some years ago I planted a Perkins apple tree, and it came into bearing rather early. It was a pleasure to see it bear almost every year; its red fruits would keep through winter and its quality was not to be despised. One spring, this fruit tree came to a sudden end. I remember that spring, when in full bloom, bees were pollinating it, there was hope for another crop of this fine fruit, but it was not to be, this time.

Fire blight got hold of it and blossoms and leaves blighted, then the twigs. It was hurt so severely that it had to be removed. Another experience I had with one of my Anoka trees. Being something new, at that time, I gave this tree extra good care; the ground was kept clean and well fertilized, and it did one good to see it grow so well. By and by the tender new growth began to blight, and at the end of the growing season the tree was nearly destroyed. I was ignorant, those days, on how to stop this, through pruning this disease out.

This tree, nevertheless, made good growth the following season, and will say, it never blighted again, it got rough pruning treatment this time. I find that quite a great number of our good apple varieties will succumb to this disease if they happen to have much lush growth. The only remedy we had, up to now, was to cut the affected limbs off well below the last wilted leaf. Early this spring I ordered this new antibiotic to see what could be done to prevent this dreaded fire blight. Apple trees bloomed unusually early this year, so I did not get this Agrimycin in time, but as soon as I got this I went to work, knowing from past experience, the bad blighters, those were sprayed and only those.

This was done June 1st, with another spraying a week after, then a third, after another week. This is the 14th of August and no blight has shown up, so far on those treated trees. Inadvertently, I missed one of the trees subject to blight, so I hustled around and gave that one a good spraying on the 12th of June and two sprayings later. Things looked good with this tree for a time, but by the middle of July it blighted badly. Guess this particular tree was sprayed too late.

I am satisfied to know that this antibiotic does the job. The spray is to be put on at blooming time for best results and should any blight show up before one intends to spray, then it is too late. In my case, this year, the blossoms froze and bees, I usually have near the orchard had not arrived in time. The fruit blossoms were visited only by wild bees so I deduce the bloom was free from any inoculant. Will say that a number of my trees that were not sprayed had plenty of blight, and some in close proximity to those that were sprayed, which gives me more confidence in this new way of control.

I would advise the folks that got the Richland and Reta, to use the spray on them; it would make good insurance. Of course, I got by for fourteen years, and you may too, but as long as this material is so reasonably priced, it surely would be worth it. Those that have Cranberry or Rodney, need not worry as nothing ever ails them.

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE—

(*Continued from page* 100)

when the wild daisies bloom and the hawkweed lifts its golden head. Summer comes when hay is cut and school is out and boys go fishing for perch in the deep holes along the brook. Summer isn't a date or an arrival of a solstice; it's a state of being in a world that is rooted and budded and branched and full of blossom.

"Summer used to be fly nets on the matched bays hitched to the buggy. It used to be barefoot boys hunting bumblebee honey. It used to be wild strawberries, and green apple pie, and homemade ice cream in the freezer you cranked by hand. It used to be family picnics and reunions. It began with Decoration Day, it rose to a crescendo with Fourth of July, it simmered on through the pond scum of August dog days.

"And it still is a good many of those things, even though fly nets are antiques and barefoot boys a rarity. You still don't come to summer by edict. It comes and gets you and takes you outdoors, which is where summer really lives. Out where grass grows tall, and honeysuckle is almost too sweet, and orioles are loud and beautiful. It's butterflies and beetles and mosquitoes and dragon flies. It's so generous and so overwhelming that

(*Continued on page* 110)

GARDEN THERAPY

by

MILDRED IBACH

September is a real challenging month for the technicians as it is important at this month to gather material to keep the program proceeding at an interesting pace during the months ahead. Your local scout, church and civic groups will be a rich source of material.

Seeds—Many people in the excitement of Spring gardening purchase many times more seeds than they will ever use. Contact either the local paper or some group locally to collect surplus seeds not planted in 1954.

Coleus Cuttings—Before a killing frost take several cuttings to add interest to your groupings of plants. They root best in water.

Ivy Cuttings—Cut them at the "joint" and root in water. After they have good roots if you wish to continue them in water instead of soil where they have a balanced food, remember they should be fed in the water with plant food every three weeks when you replace the water.

Baskets for Tools—Secure some grape baskets and paint them different colors so that they can be "loaded" with the correct tools for individual patients use. This is a good patient task.

Magnifying Glass—This tool is important for your use as often patients begin their first interest in plants when they examine a fine flower under the glass. A pocket sized one works fine and when a patient examines a flower be sure the background of the flower is resting on is a pleasing color.

Flower Pot Cleaning—You will want pots of many sizes and this is the time to estimate the number you will need for the winter. Local florists will pass on used pots (if they are not growers themselves), also scout troops will gladly collect them for you. To clean: soak pots in a bucket of water, which has one cup of bleach in it, for thirty minutes, then "swish out" with a small brush. Store in neat piles in boxes for future use.

Bedside Flower Vases—Small flower containers, which will only take a small space on a bedside stand, can be made from jelly glasses with decals placed on them. Discourage them coming to you "completed." Ask for the glasses and the decals to be used as a patient project. Children love cowboys on their glasses. Try to avoid pictures of flowers because they compete with live flowers.

Funeral Flowers or Wedding—The use of dedicated flowers from a family for patients will be your mainstay for the winter months and will be appreciated twelve months out of the year. You may be able to ask a local garden club to act as a motor corps for the delivery of the flowers from the mortician or church to you, and it is important that you send the family a note thanking them for the flowers as this is a good gesture in public relations for your program. You will welcome a large oil cloth to use on a large table and how the patients like to break them up into many flower arrangements! Remember Miss Jonas always told her patients that they came "from a morning wedding."

Pot Soil for Winter Use—This is the time to store several bushels for your future use. A local garden group will gladly take this job for you. You will want some sand for potting, too.

Leaf Collection—Regardless of the age of your patients they will enjoy working with beautiful leaves in the Fall. They may be dried out between sheets of folded newspaper. A crayon print is easy to make. Lay a leaf on a table with the vein side up. Place a clean sheet of paper on top, hold the leaf in place with one hand and with the other make parallel strokes with a crayon. If you have a large ink pad you can press the vein side down, cover with a piece of newspaper, and rub the leaf several times back and forth, then transpose on clean paper. Leaves themselves can be preserved by dipping in a saucepan of paraffin, then allow to dry on wax paper.

Herb Seeds—Negotiate for those you will need for your winter schedule. Stick to the types easy to grow. A patient can "get in good with the hospital cook" by presenting her with chive and parsley.

Corsage Making—The best book I have seen on the subject, "Making Corsages at Home," by Dorothy Biddle, Dorothea Bloom, $2.50, Barrows & Co., 132 E. 32nd, New York.

Bedside Work—You will win the praise from the nurses when you use transparent plastic squares of material. You will want two or three as "standard equipment."

If you see good in everybody, you may be an optimist. Then again you may be nuts.—ARGUS-LEADER.

A Washington wag defines an Isolationist as one who is against supporting the rest of the world in the style to which we are accustomed.

—WISCONSIN HORTICULTURE.

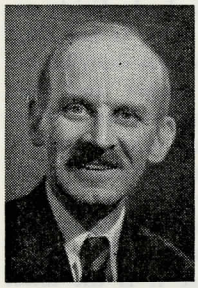
On a bus a man gave a woman his seat. She fainted. On recovering she thanked him. Then he fainted.

—ARGUS-LEADER.

LILIES FOR PERENNIAL BORDERS

by

PERCY H. WRIGHT



Wright

Of the making of designs for perennial borders—as of the making of books—there is no end. It is easy enough to plan a border that will give a colorful display, but to plan one that will consist only of "quality flowers," or at least be dominated by them, is another matter.

If we want to create such a border, it is hard to get away from the bulbs, and that requirement means lilies in the areas of severe climate, for lilies include among their number some extraordinary hardy types, hardier even than the hardiest tulips, except the species tulips. It also, of course, includes some that are tender, but a number of these we can winter successfully by protection, and others we can winter even without, provided that snow cover is early and ample. In addition, almost any lily—almost any plant, in fact, can be wintered even along the northern fringes of settlement if we are willing to bury them deeply enough underground, which does not mean very deep. This may mean the provision of ventilation in some cases—such ventilation as is given, for instance, to pitted rose plants. However, as far as I am aware, the lilies will not require this extra labor. Not many of us realize how warm it is down under the ground, especially when snow is deep. Even when frost penetrates to the ten-foot level, as it does in my own area, the severe cold will rarely penetrate below one foot. At the one-foot depth, for instance, it will be a rare winter that the temperature will fall below 20° F., or 15° F. at the lowest.

To quote a recent sentence from an article by F. E. Kendall in the Gardeners' Chronicle: "It does not take many lilies to dominate a garden." In this sentence, what can be accomplished with lilies is revealed, whether we use them in clumps about the margins of our lawns, or in the more formal perennial borders. Among flowers, the lilies attain an intensity of beauty which is entirely their own. For gracefulness, for lush flowering in proportion to the leaf surface, for tall and stately habit—in a word, for loveliness, lilies have no rivals. They are the aristocrats of the garden.

To make lilies dominate a floral display, and particularly if we want them to do it over an extended period, we must mingle many species and many varieties—and here is where the trouble usually begins. Lily species that will thrive if they can be isolated by themselves, will probably fall by the wayside with remarkable suddenness if they must congregate with the "carriers" of disease. We note the same thing in humanity. If we put even one "carrier" in among the children of a school, for instance, we can rest assured that in a short time we shall have fewer children. When we mingle lilies indiscriminately, we bring in, not one carrier, but carriers by the score.

Not many garden lovers will be willing to fight too long or too hard a battle with disease, especially those who must also contend with a northerly summer and a severe winter.

The first thing to know, then, is what lilies are carriers and what ones susceptible. Unfortunately, there is not one disease to consider, but two, mosaic and basal rot, and the list of sorts which is not hurt by the one is not the same as the list of those not hurt by the other. I omit botrytis blight for the time, because it is a foliage disease which can be controlled by spraying. Gardeners in dry climates are not troubled by it, and even in relatively moist air, protection can be had cheaply by planting one's garden in a windy spot. It is the sort of leaf disease which thrives in the muggy air that lurks around nooks of shrubbery and behind buildings and trellises.

The secret of keeping lilies healthy is to refrain from planting the sorts which carry mosaic but do not succumb to it, in the neighborhood of those which are commonly clean, or else dying, because of susceptibility to it. The species and hybrids that spell death to their neighbors include Candidum (the beautiful Madonna lily) and its daughter Testaceum, also the garden hybrids Umbellatum, Elegans, and L. T. A. Havemeyer, and, "last but not least," that old reliable, the Tiger lily. Speciosum is another in this group, but is not likely to appear in northern gardens on account of its late blooming habit. However, the varieties in this species vary in date of blooming from August 1 to about September 25 in the climate of Vermont, and so the earliest might have a place in the country north of it or with a shorter season.

Another group, which includes Hansoni and Martagon, and the hybrids between them, is second only to the first group in being able to resist infection.

The lilies which must at all accounts be kept away from these because they must be kept free of disease include Auratum, Canadense (a native to Eastern Canada and the Eastern States), Formosanum, Japonicum and Superbum. The latter is also a native.

The thing to do is apparently to eliminate the lilies of the first group entirely, unless one is willing to restrict oneself to them. If this is done, one becomes able to grow, not only the extremely susceptible group, but the great body of intermediate lilies, the ones which will be the centre of attraction in any garden, including the stately Regal lily, and Centifolium, which blooms at the same time, also Sargentiae and Sulphureum, which bloom later and are less hardy and more susceptible to disease. These four comprise the famous group of trumpet lilies which are the Queens of the Lily Kingdom, and which will dominate any garden in which they appear. They have been freely hybridized together, and the hybrids are becoming popular rapidly, and are due to gain popularity, it seems, even more rapidly.

Among the same "intermediates" are lilies of many different types, and very different types. In fact, they are united as a group only by their constitution, a tendency to take mosaic but not to die out too promptly under its influence. It is a group sufficiently diverse that our lily border could be built out of it entirely and still be sufficiently varied for beauty—and still be representative of the entire lily genus. In date of blooming, it covers the whole range of the lilies, from Pumilum, the Coral lily, which we used to call Tenuifolium, to Sulphu-

(*Continued on page* 107)

HEMS—I LOVE THEM ALL

by

JUANITA JORGENSEN

Jorgensen

Boy! What a job! I have just finished trying to evaluate the hems in my garden for the "25 best" list in the American Hemerocallis Society's annual Popularity Poll, and I feel quite out of sorts with my decisions.

How can I relegate the five-and-a-half foot stems, and mass of yellow sunshine which is Hesperus, to the lower portion of the list, just because he doesn't have too much stamina, and is one of the older hems; while the royal Dutchess of Windsor loves night life so much she can stay out all night and still keep her gown fresh until late the next evening! Hesperus has always been a standout in my plantings because of its height, its floriferousness, its dependability in all kinds of weather, and because its well-branched stems carry 35 or more graceful yellow blossoms as much as seven inches across, which keeps it blooming over a long season of time. It had to be good to win the Stout Award in 1950, and it is still good in my book.

Then there is Gold of Ophir, which has never even reached the semi-finals for an Award of Merit in the great race for the top hem of the nation, yet every summer when its great golden trumpets call me to its section of the border, I wonder why it has been overlooked in the past. Now of course, when we have such smashing hits as the wide-open Orange Beauty with its great garden visibility, to match it in competition, there will be no chance for Ophir at all, and you will probably never hear of it except in old gardens which began growing the very first of the hybridized hems. Orange Beauty has long been among the top hems in the popularity poll and was sixth in the Stout Medal race, in spite of the fact that it does fade a bit in hot sunlight.

For this Popularity Poll I am supposed to commit my preferences irrevocably in black and white, as to my love for Painted Lady, Lady Fair, Wee Killarney Lass, Fulva Rosea. Mme. Recamier and bold Georgia. I might as well say that I loved one of my children better than another. We love each one for its individual personality and accomplishments, but who shall say that one is better than another? Without commiting myself to a preference, I can at least compare my loves, which are the nearest to "pink" in my garden at the present time. If size is any criterion Painted Lady is no lady at all, but a bold, buxom young woman intent on calling attention to herself, which is why people either love her or hate her. Having sturdy, shorter legs than some hems, she makes up for it by thrusting her head up and out in front at all times, but as soon as you come to know her you over look her boldness as the manner and assurance of youth, and love her for her character alone. Though she is a southern bred lady, her rugged constitution is a point in great favor here in the dry plains country, and her "paint" is not at all blotched as a "painted lady" might be! Her natural complexion is a burnished gold well suited to summer suns, over which she has sprinkled a bit of powdered rouge to give her face the brilliance from which she derives her name. Her petals are broad and distinctly ruffled at the edges, and her face is wide open and frank to show that she has nothing to hide.

Wee Killarney Lass with her narrow ribbon petals, should never have been set so close to Painted Lady, but even so, the startling geranium-pink of her blossoms is the most captivating color among the hems I have seen. Killarney Lass has less red and more true pink than her mother, Fulva Rosea, but has the same amaryllis-like form, and the same glow that makes the species, the most beautiful wild hem in existence. I go back again and again just to satisfy myself that Killarney Lass is as pink as I thought it was the first time, and each time am more impressed with its pinkness.

Georgia and Lady Fair, both newer pinks, are also much larger than the two above and both close to the top in popularity polls, as well as sharing an Award of Merit which is next highest to the Stout Award. Neither has the color which gives Killarney Lass such a pink effect in the garden but both are wonderful hems. Having bought Georgia as a real pink hem, I was terribly let-down when I first saw its color, but the more I looked at its buff-peach smoothness the better I liked it. Georgia is another big girl, with spectacular 6-inch flowers opening up widely; while Lady Fair's entrancing delicacy of color is her chief attraction. The catalogues describe her as a "blending of Jasper and flesh pink with creamy undertones," while the blossoms open out with gracefully recurved petals. Mme. Recamier is another "pink" to which you give a second look but which has an orange cast upon closer examination. It is most valuable because it is the latest of the pinks in my garden and still has scattered blossoms late in August.

Most of the "red" hemerocallis still show too much of the brown and orange influence to be real standouts in the border, but who would part with a 60-stemmed clump of Purple Waters crowned with 50 to 60 blossoms over a period of a month in midsummer? Even though Purple Waters is directly east of the house where it receives a half day's shade, it fades during period of excessive heat, but still seems to be the favorite with many people who ask for a "start." Other reds which are among my favorites are Autumn Red, Red Torch, Black Falcon, Persian Princess, Potentate and Dominion, in that order, although Autumn Red has not performed as late in the season as I had expected after its first bloom season. The newer Potentate is a distinct color break in the purple-red class, but the blossom has been a bit smaller than I like.

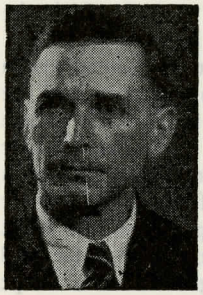
Since the hems listed for the popularity poll must be those which have been under your personal observance for at least two years I have chosen the following other hems in a variety of colors and color combination from my collection of 83 plants. Some of my newer hems such as Devon Cream, Howdy and Jean did not blossom in this year of heat and drouth so I could not appraise them. I wouldn't want to do without my old Mikado as it is among the earliest of the eyed varieties, but Dorothea is a much more handsome, large light yellow with a zone of lavendar on both petals and sepals, and with petals gracefully twisted, and which remains open until after twilight. Bold Courtier is another with

(*Continued on page* 109)

FRUIT AND VEGETABLE NOTES

by

F. X. WALLNER



Wallner

July 1st—Logging crews laid off because of the heavy snow up in the mountains, in northern Idaho. Passes to Glacier Park closed, in Idaho, Montana and in Canada. Nights have been cool here at Twin Lakes, northern Idaho, up to July 10th and wild flowers in full bloom. The only perpendicular street in North America is in Oregon City, Oregon, and was just finished in early 1955. It replaces an old elevator built in 1915 and run by water, using 200,000 gallons daily. This is a free elevator, making the trip in 15 seconds, from the valley to the heights. It has a glassed in observation tower at the top. Another similar elevator is in Portland, also free, in the grounds of our Sorrowful Mother. You are from the busy rushing street to upper beautiful grounds that are so quiet and restful.

The plane trip to Portland takes a little longer than going to Hawaii. Then the car trip to Spokane and the cabins in Northern Idaho for two weeks vacation before the rush and busy season of the vegetable market. But no fishing or swimming, but busy changes; made up the lawn chairs out of free slabwood and a few nails, installed two electric stoves and made a nice fence. The grazing law in Idaho favors the rancher so the black Angus cattle, of a nearby ranch roam about and the children had a close call when they stampeded through the yard. Also cars and big logging trucks are ever on the watch for cattle and deer.

The plane trip back to St. Paul. from Spokane is non-stop and in 5 hours. Back home, early July 9th, and busy at the stand before breakfast or chance of coffee. Many times in the past 50 years we have tried russet potatoes but never grew any fit to sell, but this year we have a russet that is extra quality and shape, and should compete with the western type of russet. Blight has hit our earliest variety of tomatoes, but it may be because tomatoes there last year. The later varieties seem to be much better.

Last year there were very few apples, while this year every tree seems to have good apples, even those that were not sprayed, seem to have apples that are not wormy. Truck loads of Texas melons travel the highways so long that many loads are not fit to sell, and the market for them is now very slow. Today I find the early fire ball tomato in a different field, set two weeks later, that is bearing a nice crop of fruit. So I am sure it's the soil, not the variety that is to blame for the poor crop in the earlier planting.

July 20th—Today we have finished the picking of the second planting of sweet corn; this planting had some tip-worms but no borers. The first field was sprayed three times, so had few borers and no tip-worms, so early. Tomorrow a new field will be started; it's a larger ear and hope its free from worms. The hour plane ride from St. Paul to Sioux Falls is the nicest view of this territory one ever sees. About half of the farms were in yellow patches, ripening grain, the balance in pasture or corn was a nice green only the roads and some summer fallow was brown. A very nice card from John T. Bregger, Clemson, So. Carolina, says he has enjoyed my column for years and especially, of late, when I write about the great northwest, as he has been in most every county in Oregon and Washington. I expect to show him about Grotto Park in Kay Lou acres, some time this winter when we both are in the west. I appreciate the card, as every month I think it should be the last, as there may be more important information that should take the place of this column that has run since the magazine started in March, 1929.

July 28th—Swamped at the vegetable market with the best crop of most everything in the produce line of some 20 items. But the heat of the past few days will cut some crops short that we cannot reach with water. But our wish and prayer is that hail and storms do not strike the growing crops.

July 31st—Attended the annual Halzabuer picnic dinner at Yankton of the second and third generation. Grandmother was a sister of their grandfather. Also spent some time at the dedication of the dam where the big machines were filling the main channel and stopping the flow of the river and in a short time another big man-made lake will be formed.

LILIES FOR—

(*Continued from page* 105)

reum and some still later. It includes Henryi and Davidii and the whole profuse list of the Willmottiae hybrids, also Cernuum, and probably the newest hybrids of all. The Cernuum hybrids with their gift of new colors in the group of the hardiest lilies.

Needless to say, this article is intended to be suggestive only. The subject is far to comprehensive to be dealt with in a page or two. This article is intended to leave the reader with two ideas: first, that a perennial border dominated by the aristocratic lily family is entirely feasible and results in beauty beyond words; and secondly, that the secret of success is the relatively simple one of keeping out certain lilies which do not mingle on friendly terms with their relatives. There is no reason why disease-free varieties in the "carrier" group cannot be made available in the near future, for lilies grown from seed are, we are told, free of disease, by virtue of their having been grown from seed. Of course, seed propagation means that the new varieties are not identical with the old. Only the species lilies remain relatively stable under seed propagation.

In fact, I have one of these disease-free strains myself, the Tiger lily. One would never know it to be free of mosaic and the ordinary Tiger lily infected with mosaic and a carrier, if we were not told so, for of all the carrier lilies, the ordinary Tiger lily seems to look the healthiest and suffer the least reduction of vigor.

To stress the second "thought" of this discussion is desirable. It is this: the demonstration of the relationship of the mosaic-free and the mosaic-susceptible and the carrier lilies to each other and to the intermediate group is a recent achievement, and, since the advent of the newer knowledge of their relationships, the growing of lilies in profusion has become a phase of gardening within reach of the ordinary man, noted for the lack of patience which he ordinarily reveals. The old notion of "difficult" lilies can be kept out of our minds. All we need do, to grow lilies readily, is to understand them.

PLANNING OUR PROGRAMS

by

ALICE H. PLATT
Langford, S. Dak.

Alice Platt

Soon the 1956 programs will be made up. I am sure some of you are already planning them. I hope that you read my articles in the January and June issues of this magazine, wherein I mentioned the valuable material available in the books which were required reading for Course 1 of the Flower Show Schools. The basic reading for Course 2 has been announced. In case you'd like to add to your library, the new books used in that course are, "Design in Flower Arrangements," by Arms, $3.50; "Wild Flowers for Your Garden," by Hall, $4.95; and the rest of the reading is from the "Woman's Home Companion Garden Book," by Wister. So many clubs are interested in flower arrangement, corsage making, and demonstrations in these arts, that material from all these books may well be used in their programs. Some members who have had more study and practice in arranging are glad to pass their knowledge on. Occasionally a roll call topic might be an arrangement by each member. Suggested topics for some arrangements, "Seed Pods Are Pretty," "Wind in the Pine Trees," "Arranged for Eating" (fruit arrangement for table from which fruit may easily be removed for eating), "Featuring Dahlias," (or substitute any flower), "Autumn Harvest," "Technique of Miniatures," "Two Is Company" (a pair).

I have not yet received the standard for year book awards from the National Committee, but it was not changed last year from the year before, so I refer you to my article in the October, 1954, issue for that. Note that a comprehensive study of some phase of the following, horticulture, conservation, garden design, beautification counts 25 points.

For new horticultural information there is always some in "Dakota Horticulture" such as the "Hemerocallis Corner" by Mrs. Jorgensen and "Pansie" by Mrs. Metzger, as well as Jan de Graff's article on Lilies in the July-August issue. The June issue carried an article on "Flowers for Sun or Shade" by Jesse Rawson, and he has written a pamphlet on "Garden Chrysanthemums for the Home" which many of us obtained at Brookings during our tour the last day of the convention. It is Horticulture Pamphlet No. 38. Address Jesse M. Rawson, Dept. of Horticulture, State College, Brookings if you want one.

All our garden magazines are rich storehouses of material. Many people I know save the gardening articles by Luxton which appear weekly in the Minneapolis Sunday Tribune.

Conservation topics may be obtained from magazines. Our open meeting lectures with outside speakers may well be on some conservation topic.

Mrs. Ferris of Sioux Falls, Slides Chairman, has a file of slides suitable for showing at club meetings. Those taken at the Carl Starker lecture on arrangement in Madison last year have proven very popular. C. O. Quickstad of Watertown has slides of wild flowers which he has taken.

I wonder if you all know that I have the year books which were on display at the state convention which I will be happy to mail to any club requesting them for study. Of course they must be promptly returned so that they may go on to other clubs. I usually divide them into two or three groups so that more clubs are accommodated. A new club is being organized at Sisseton and perhaps there will be one in Waubay. Let's make our next year's programs more interesting and informative than ever before.

Last Sunday I had the pleasure of a trip to Seche Hollow northwest of Sisseton. (Seche is the Sioux word for bad.) This deep ravine, almost a canyon in places was so named by the Indians when a flood one spring many years ago killed a number of the tribe that had been camped there for the winter. It is a deep ravine extending for about two miles into the east slope of the Coteau des Prairie (Prairie Hills). It is heavily wooded with all the trees native to this area, including the not so common birch and basswood. During the WPA days an improved road with switchbacks similar to those in the Black Hills was constructed into it. At that time fireplaces were made, and some rustic bridges were built across the stream which bubbles over rocks from its spring fed sources. In the thirties the beaver had built dams there. Sunday I saw a tree in the stream which the beaver had recently felled.

There is such a dense undergrowth now that it is much harder to find the big spring up on the hillside where water bubbles out of a semicircular place a rod or more across. I had a refreshing drink from the smaller spring which is piped into the creek near the road. It is excellent water, and cold. The undergrowth was kept cleared out during the thirties, but it is not weedy now. There is sumac, wild plum and wild grape, wild hop and cucumber, goldenrod, a wild flower similar to golden-glow, wild asters, wild milkweed and an orchid colored lacy flower with round heads about three inches across which I do not know. Near the creek were touch-me-nots, and watercress grows profusely in the stream, as well as ferns and mosses among and on the rocks. In a few weeks the whole gulch will be aflame with autumn coloring, and on the road up and out of Seche Hollow as one looks back he is reminded of the Black Hills. On our way home we took an extra jaunt to Pickerel Lake, that jewel in the prairie hills. Trees and flowers around it are native, and similar to the flora of more wooded states.

I'm sure we will all visit some of our favorite outdoor spots during the beautiful fall days to store up some memory pictures to brighten the winter days ahead, and that we shall feel something of what Edna St. Vincent Millay expressed in:

GOD'S WORLD

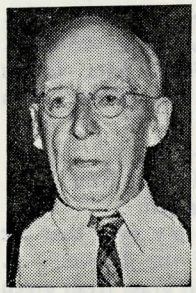
"Oh world, I cannot hold thee close enough!
Thy winds, thy wide gray skies!
Thy mists that roll and rise!
Thy woods, this autumn day, that ache and sag
And all but cry with color! That gaunt crag
To crush! To lift the lean of that black bluff!
World, world, I cannot get thee close enough!
Long have I known a glory in it all,
But never knew I this;
Here such a passion is

(*Continued on page* 109)

SECRETARY'S CORNER

by

W. A. SIMMONS



Simmons

Our sympathies go out to Mobridge, in the loss through retirement of Mrs. F. Briley, author, librarian, organizer of their garden club, secretary of the club for 8 years and president for 3 years. She was honored in a farewell party, and presented with a gift of a rose collection. Their loss is somewhat of a gain for us, as she has returned to Dell Rapids, where she will be much nearer to us.

The August number of Wisconsin Horticulture contains some up-to-date advice on how to keep cut flowers longer, as follows: "Use a sharp knife for cutting the stems. A dull one will close the water tubes and shut out water. Remove all leaves from the stems if they would be in the water. Decomposing leaves cause clogged stems. Cut your flowers in the evening. They have stored up food during the daylight hours and are strongest then. Place the stems in warm water (New York Experiment Station says 110 degrees F.). Hot water moves up the stems more readily than cold water and perhaps clears the stems of air bubbles. Haven't we always thought that we should place flowers in cold water, the colder the better?" The latter recommendation sounds a little revoluntionary, but it comes from a good source and is worth giving a trial. Further this article says: "We have always wondered whether it would do any good to plunge the stems of dahlias in boiling water. The New York Station states it's a good thing to do, for about 30 seconds. The milky substance oozing from the stems plugs the water conducting tubes. This stem-boiling also helps poppies and poinsettias."

What bees can and cannot do. The Maryland Fruit Grower's Newsletter reports the following statements by George Abrams, Extension Specialist in Bee Culture. "On the debit side, it must be remembered that bees do not fly in the rain, even cloudy days decrease flight. They do not require full sunlight to function, but full sunlight is best. They do not reach maximum flight or full flight unless the temperature goes over 70 degrees F. There is some flight at 65 and even some short flights at as low as 60. The bee's body is very light in relation to its surface. A bee weighs about 1/5000 of a pound. It is easily buffeted by the wind. A 25 m.p.h. wind will cut bee flight by as much as 60%. So the ideal day for bee flight is one that is warm, sunny and still. On the credit side, remember that the honeybee is the only insect that can be brought into the orchard in any desired number. Just one colony of standard orchard strength has about 30,000 adult individuals, of which about 10,000 are bees of "fielder" age. All of the bees in a colony go through a rigid succession or set routine of duties dictated by physiological age. The adult worker bee spends its first 21 days of life as an "inside" worker and makes no trips to the fields. Upon becoming of age, that is, after 3 weeks of inside work, she becomes a "fielder" and for about another 3 weeks does the collecting for the colony. It is axiomatic that a colony has two bees in the hive backing up each bee in the field, so that a 30,000 colony hive sends out about 10,000 fielders, under ideal flying conditions." Taken from J. D. Winter's News Letter.

Was very sorry to hear that our librarian Mrs. R. G. Ferris was widowed on August 20th by the sudden passing of her husband. This ends an ideal union where both were greatly interested in gardening and between them produced wonderful flowers that always received many prizes at flower shows.

HEMS—

(*Continued from page* 106)

two colors, though it is a true bi-color, with petals of red and sepals of yellow.

Morpheus, a night bloomer which opens during the night and remains fresh until late the next night, is giving the flower arrangers a break. It is a lovely yellow blossom on the order of Hesperus, and tall enough for the back of the border where it will highlight everything. Highboy and Sunny West are more of the yellow fellows which top all other perennials, and open late in the afternoon about the time that most of the old hems begin to get sleepy. The trouble with them, as well as with the much touted North Star, is that they fade before the next evening, so are good only for arrangements which are to be used for breakfast, brunch or lunch. Summer Glow, another good tall yellow, together with shorter Mission Bells, have given good performances without care though this is only their second summer. Petals on Summer Glow are broader than on so many of the yellows; while Mission Bells is supposed to have 50 or more buds on a scape when mature.

Soudan and Patricia are two more oldies in the yellow group which I shall never remove from my garden because their petals and sepals overlap to form solid trumpet shaped blossoms. Both are a bit smaller than some of the never hems but their solidarity makes them appear larger. Both are almost self-covered hems of different shades. One more hem which fascinates me is little Caprice the earliest hem which is not yellow. It is a rich, brown-red with golden throat, perfect to use with Flava and Dr. Regal for a focal point in hem arrangements. It remains open longer than any other early hem too, and is a valuable addition to the front of the border.

PLANNING OUR—

(*Continued from page* 108)

As stretcheth me apart. Lord, I do fear
Thou'st made the world too beautiful this year.
My soul is all but out of me—let fall
No burning leaf; prithee, let no bird call."

Best way to get rid of moles in the lawn or garden is to kill the white grubs in the area, says John Schread, entomologist, Connecticut Experiment Station. Moles must have a constant food supply and cannot live long when it is not available. Reducing grub population starves moles.—CAPPER'S FARMER.

Coolness and tranquility, two of the most sought after effects in summer gardens and in other plantings for hot weather interest may be introduced easily into the planting scheme by including a selective assortment of white flowered shrubs, vines and accessory plants. E. L. KAMMERER.

NEWSLANTS—

(*Continued from page* 99)

an old one!" He recalls one crop of 100 24-quart crates from a half acre. Fifty cents per quart is anticipated. Market is Saskatoon and Yorkton. It costs $3.00 to pick, basket and crate a 24-quart crate. Straw is used for mulch and raked between the rows when growth starts in springtime. This mulch reduces the set of runner plants and discourages some weeds. Mulch straw from behind the combines is much more free of weeds than straw from the old straw piles. Birt uses caragana and lilacs as windbreaks around his gardens and small fruit plantings. Six inch spruce obtained from Norman Ross at Indian Head in 1920 are now 40 feet high. Box-elders grown from seed were impressive. Soil on the Birt farm is good—perhaps a bit more heavy than light—not sandy.

Dr. F. L. Patterson came to the University of Saskatchewan in 1921. The Department of Horticulture was organized in 1922. The University has an annual enrollment in the neighborhood of 2200 students. Many new buildings reflect improved economic conditions since I last visited the campus in 1928. Most construction is of a beautiful native Saskatchewan limestone. Most impressive is a new 700 bed hospital, a new nurses home and a new Medical School. When completed, this enterprise, including equipment, will cost someone about ten million dollars.

Dr. Patterson, aided by his assistant Margaret Young, has a large program underway. Time did not permit a look at the tree fruit work. Potato work, however, is receiving major emphasis. Seven to eight thousand new seedlings are grown each year. A variety with blight resistance, plus the earliness and quality of Cobbler, and the scab resistance and popularity of Netted Gem is sought. The North Dakota russet variety, Early Gem, has been tested but varies too much in shape and does not have the quality desired. Early Gems have been imported as table stock and sold as "Gems." Dr. Patterson suspects that a considerable amount of this table stock material has been planted by folks with the impression that they have planted Netted Gems.

The winters at Saskatoon are rugged. Roses like the hybrid teas and floribundas do not endorse the long cold winters with little snow cover unless pampered. Snow is usually inadequate until after Christmas. The well known hardy's, Hansa, Betty Bland and the two yellows, Harrison's and Persian are standbys.

The Red Rich strawberry is admired for its striking flavor and dark red color. It is being crossed with Alaska. Alaska is pale colored and rather ordinary in flavor, but is very hardy, vigorous and shows no tendency toward chlorosis. In raspberries, Chief, Starlight and Sunbeam are favored. Ruddy winterkills half way to the ground. We had lunch with Dr. Patterson and his charming wife in their beautiful new home on the edge of Sutherland. Here Dr. Patterson has a sizeable acreage where he goes on a postmans holiday as time permits and tests many things, including a large population of lilies. His lawn is divided between the conventional Kentucky Bluegrass on one side of the drive and Chewings Fescue on the other. Chewings Fescue was finer and had better color. We have many more notes but must hurry on. (Continued next month.)

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE—

(*Continued from page* 103)

you can't tie it down to dates, no matter how you try."

One step forward in progress within the South Dakota Federation of Garden Clubs occurred Thursday, July 25, when the Nationally Accredited Flower Show Judges of the state and the State President met in Dell Rapids to organize a Judges Council. Mrs. George Jorgensen acted as temporary chairman until Mrs. Lewis Severance, Huron, was chosen as chairman. Among questions of policy discussed was the expense incurred by the judges in traveling to and from flower shows where they act as judges. It was the consensus of opinion that the garden club holding the show should pay the actual expense of the judge when acting in that capacity.

The purpose of the Council is to further study of the judges work and to present a uniform service to the clubs in the state.

Those who are nationally accredited judges and those who have begun their Flower Show School work towards a judges certificate are eligible. Mrs. Severance will be happy to answer any questions regarding the Council.

Judges present at the meeting were Mrs. George Jorgensen, Dell Rapids; Mrs. Francis Nelson, Hurley; Mrs. Menholt Christiansen, Hurley; Mrs. D. S. Baughman, Madison; Mrs. R. G. Ferris, Sioux Falls; Mrs. Lewis Severance, Huron, and Miss Laura Sexauer, Brookings.

"THANKFUL I CAN SEE"

Bert Husted

I'm thankful for my eyes that see . . . The beauty of the flowers . . . Or trees in bloom and grass fresh green . . . From gentle April showers . . . And also for the chance to see . . . A sunset in the west . . . Or sunrise in the morning and . . . The stars when at their best . . . I'm thankful for the sparkle of . . . A babbling mountain brook . . . And for a peaceful valley and . . . A hill from which to look . . . I'm thankful I can see the skies . . . In shades of azure blue . . . With gently floating snowy clouds . . . That pass in slow review . . . And when I look around the world . . . I'm thankful as can be . . . That God has made it beautiful . . . And gave me eyes to see.

Rosy Carpet is a new cover plant that blooms constantly from early June till frost. It is a dwarf spreading sedum, in deep pink. Plants grow no higher than 4 to 6 inches and spread to 24 inches while remaining compact at all times. It is an excellent border plant that thrives even in dry places.

—CAPPER'S FARMER.

Two specialists had been called to diagnose a patient's puzzling ailment. Anxious to know their verdict and fearing that they wouldn't tell him, the patient arranged for his young son to be concealed in their consultation room. After the doctors had left, he asked for son's report. "Pop," the lad reported, "they used just bunches of big words and argued a lot and the only thing they agreed on was that they would wait for the autopsy."—A. N. Pratt in TENNESSEE HORTICULTURE.

Before long, the novelty of television will have worn off enough in this area so that people will go back to listening in on party telephone lines.

—WISCONSIN HORTICULTURE.

ROADSIDE DEVELOPMENT REPORT—1955

by

MRS. G. R. MCARTHUR

For many years the South Dakota Federation of Garden Clubs have been interested and encouraged the development of Roadside parks and rest areas along our highways. During the past several months the State Highway Commission has constructed many very attractive and accessible roadside parks throughout the state. Today there are twenty-five completed rest areas being used by the tourists, these include tables and benches, rubbish containers, toilet facilities, water, green grass and shade, entirely inviting to the traveler with children and lunch basket. Ten other roadside rest parks are being constructed and will be completed by fall. Numerous letters of commendation and appreciation have been received by the Highway Commission from tourists going through South Dakota who have used these facilities.

With the development of more roadside parks each year to beautify our highways, many, many more tourists will leave the boundaries of our state happily marvelling about South Dakota, The Land of Infinite Beauty.

Your state chairman urges and requests that individual garden club members visit these parks and rest areas whenever they pass by, to realize how attractive they are, and write to the State Highway Commission congratulating them on this fine state project.

CHINKOTA ELM—SOUTH DAKOTA'S CERTIFIED SIBERIAN ELM

by

PAUL COLLINS

The release of Chinkota elm from the South Dakota State Experiment Station last year marked a milestone of progress in tree planting activity in the Northern Great Plains area. First, it gave general official recognition to the importance of seed origin and secondly, through certification, it insured to growers that the stock they purchased was of known kind and quality. With the first step attained, there is a promise that some future day will see every windbreak tree planted on South Dakota farms under a certification procedure that insures better quality.

The importance of origin and genetic makeup of seed has long been known. We have only to see the now common and accepted machinery present in the various states to handle the certification of cereals, legumes, grasses and corn to realize the outgrowth of that knowledge. Forest trees are a crop too and, as such, are subject to betterment through breeding, selection and seeking out better seed origins.

The realization of the need for using care in collecting seed for reforestation purposes came early. European countries, which faced reforestation problems long before America, learned by experience that each successful plantation came only from a few well chosen seed source areas. The result has been that most of those countries now require that seed in commerce must be certified as to origin and other pertinent data. In the United States progress has been much slower. Only a few federal agencies, notably the Forest Service, and a handful of state forest agencies require tree seed certification for planting on public lands. Such certification involves mainly seed source and use of that seed for reforestation purposes is limited to special zones. In the mountainous area of the west, altitude is the most important, in the east, latitude and other factors are considered. The Forest Service followed that procedure in producing and planting tree stock during the Great Plains Shelterbelt project, the first instance of a large-scale planting program in the Plains based on the use of known seed sources.

To illustrate the importance of seed source, no better example can be given than the story of Chinkota elm. Siberian elm (or as it is erroneously called, Chinese elm) is native to Turkestan, eastern Siberia and China. When it was first introduced to this country probably little stress was placed on the location of the seed collection. Within a few years, this elm was looked upon as the answer to all tree problems, particularly in the Plains region. It showed remarkably fast growth and a high tolerance to drouth, however, its brittle branches, a relatively short life and small size soon caused it to fall in disfavor when used as an ornamental or shade tree. As a windbreak tree, it served well, providing ease of establishment, early protection and fair height, forming the main core of protection until the slower growing and longer lasting conifers and hardwoods were tall enough to provide a more permanent windbreak.

Its success was too good to be true. It couldn't last, and it didn't. The weakness of Siberian elm was most forcibly brought out by the sharp and sudden Armistic Day freeze of 1940. Other sudden fall freezes prior to that time had caused local damage, but this storm was felt throughout the Plains region. Siberian elm plantings as far south as Kansas were wiped out or killed back to the roots by one stroke of nature. Individual trees and groves were not damaged pointing out a genetic difference that needed investigation. Seed from those winter hardy trees tended to give more hardy progeny, but the weakness had not been completely erased. Professor N. E. Hansen and other plant breeders recognized seed source as one of the contributing factors. Instead of using seed from parents which probably had their origin in the central or southern portions of the native range of Siberian elm, why not import seed collected from trees growing naturally in the northern limits of its range?

Shortly thereafter, under the leadership of Dr. Leon Snyder a project was

initiated at the South Dakota State Experiment Station to test and develop better adapted strains and species for windbreak planting. Among the plant materials tested were different sources of Siberian elm. One strain, obtained from the Dropmore Nursery, Canada, with its seed origin near Harbin, Manchuria, stood out in one particular quality over the other strains. By the last half of October it had colored its leaves and was prepared for winter while the other strains still were carrying green leaves susceptible to any sudden freezes that might occur. Here was a strain that would go dormant and escape winter damage or killing. The important factor was seed origin. The northern seed source from Manchuria proved to be outstanding in its ability to withstand winter damage as compared to the more southern sources.

The years of testing at the Experiment Station and the Canadian experience with this strain have shown that Chinkota elm (as it is named) can take the harsh weather of the Northern Great Plains. Last year two-year old Chinkota elm suffered only minor tip killing in an experimental windbreak at Brookings while the common Siberian elm planted in an adjacent row was severely damaged or killed completely.

In order to insure that customers could be sure they were purchasing Chinkota elm, the production of seedlings was adapted to fit the already existent State Certification organization. Although certification was designed for agronomic seeds, the authorities worked out tree certification procedures that were compatible with their general overall program. The significance of certified tree seedlings is not in the higher cost of trees which the additional handling and administration requires but in the satisfaction of knowing that it is a proven, hardy stock of known origin. The name Chinkota alone does not provide that insurance; only if it bears the state certification tag can farmers be sure it is the produce thus represented.

Certification of Chinkota elm is the first step toward providing better adapted planting stock for South Dakota. Mutual acceptance of certification by the farmers and by the nurseries can make this program grow. A more sound windbreak and shelterbelt planting program will then be assured.

Tomato powder is one step nearer to commercial production, with the demonstration that it can be made by a continuous process in vacuum drying equipment. The product is simply mixed with water for a delicious tomato juice, says USDA, or used in making tomato paste, soup, etc.—MARKET GROWERS JOURNAL.

To be an artists is to construct, and to whatever degree one shows the genius for construction in work of any sort, he is that much an artist. The artist's life is therefore the desirable life, and it is possible to all.

—ROBERT HENRI.

Sewing circles darn more husbands than socks.—ARGUS-LEADER

Love is about the only game that is never called by darkness.